IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

applying a data medium for the unique identifier on a recording medium, said data medium being capable of being electronically written without contact so that data are written without contact onto the data medium in the course of a document production event; ~~and~~

~~wherein data of at least one of a user program, of the printed document, and of the data medium are linked in a file.~~

said data written onto the data medium being linked in a file with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an unchangeable identifier information in an electronic storage region of said transponder.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the file is used to check validity of the document in a document processing event downstream from the document production event, such that its content is compared with read data from the printed document.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein the transponder is already applied on the recording medium before a printing event.

22. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein an identifier number printed in plain text additionally applied on the recording medium.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22 wherein the identifier number printed in plain text is identical to at least one of the identifier number stored in the transponder, to an identifier number stored in an optical

barcode, to an identifier number stored in a magnetic layer, and another identifier number associated with the identifier number of the transponder.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein unique identifiers of a person are stored on the document and this data is likewise stored in the file in the course of the document production process.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the data on the document are compared with the data of the file created in the course of the document production process using the printed document for identification of at least one of a person and goods.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the data are stored encrypted on the data medium.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein at least one of a print result, the identifier of the data medium and an electronic write result are checked and, in case of at least one of a faulty printing, a faulty identification, and an erroneous write result, the erroneous document is separated out and a repeated generation of the document is initiated.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein a print event occurs with at least one electrophotographic print device and the electronic writing in the data medium occurs after the recording medium has left the print device.

29. (currently amended) A method according to claim 18 wherein information from which it can be detected that the document was at a monitoring point is stored in the data medium at the monitoring point, the monitoring point comprising at least one write station ~~and~~ at which the document was detected.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein at the monitoring point additional data is detected from the document, and it is stored in a central tracking databank that the document was at the monitoring point.

31. (currently amended) A system for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising:

a data medium applied on a recording medium, said data medium being provided for the unique identifier, said data medium being capable of being electronically written without contact so that data are written without contact onto the data medium in the course of a document production event; ~~and~~

~~a file in which data of at least one of a user program, of the printed document, and of the data medium are linked.~~

a file in which said data written onto the data medium is linked with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an electronic storage region for storing an unchangeable identifier information.

32. (previously presented) A system according to claim 31 further comprising a computer.

33. (previously presented) A system according to claim 31 further comprising a print device.

34. (currently amended) A computer program for use in production of a printed document with a unique identifier, and wherein a data medium is applied for the unique identifier on a recording medium, said data medium being capable of being electronically written without contact, comprising:

said computer program writing data without contact onto the data medium in the course of a document production event; ~~and~~

~~said program linking in a file data of at least one of a user program, of the printed document, and of the data medium.~~

a file in which said data written onto the data medium is linked with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an electronic storage region for storing an unchangeable identifier information.

35. (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

applying a data medium for the unique identifier on a recording medium, said data medium being capable of being electronically written or read without contact so that data are written onto or read from the data medium without contact in the course of a document production event; ~~and~~

~~wherein data of at least one of a user program, of the printed document, and of the data medium are linked in a file.~~

data on the data medium being linked in a filed with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an unchangeable identifier information in an electronic storage region of said transponder.

37. (previously presented) A method of claim 36 wherein the data are written onto and read from the data medium without contact in the course of the document production event.

38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) A system for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising:

a data medium applied on a recording medium, said data medium being provided for the unique identifier, said data medium being capable of being electronically written or read without contact so that data are written onto or read

from the data medium without contact in the course of a document production event; ~~and~~

~~a file in which data of at least one of a user program, of the printed document, and of the data medium are linked.~~

a file in which data on the data medium is linked with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an electronic storage region for storing an unchangeable identifier information.

40. (previously presented) A system of claim 39 in which the data medium is capable of being electronically written and read without contact so that data are written onto and read from the data medium without contact in the course of the document production event.

41. (cancelled)

42. (new) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

applying a data medium for the unique identifier on a recording medium, said data medium being capable of being electronically read without contact so that at least one of data or unchangeable identifier information are read from the data medium without contact in the course of a document production event;

said at least one of the data or the identifier information read from the data medium being linked in a file with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises said unchangeable identifier information in an electronic storage region of said transponder.

43. (new) A method of claim 42 wherein the data medium has a read only memory for storage of the identifier information and for said data read from the data medium.

44. (new) A system for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising:

a data medium applied on a recording medium, said data medium being provided for the unique identifier, said data medium being capable of being electronically read without contact so that at least one of data or unchanageable identification information are read from the data medium without contact in the course of a document production event;

a file in which at least one of said data or identifier information read from the data medium is linked with data printed onto the printed document; and

the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an electronic storage region for storing said unchangeable identifier information.

45. (new) A system of claim 44 in which the data medium has a read only memory for storage of the identifier information and for said data read from the data medium.

46. (new) A method for production of a printed document with a unique identifier, comprising the steps of:

providing a recording medium having printed information thereon along with a transponder thereon, said transponder having a non-erasable storage region having stored therein an unchangeable identifier information;

reading the unchangeable identifier information from the transponder; and

linking in a file the printed information with the unchangeable identifier information read from the transponder.

47. (new) A method of claim 46 wherein in addition to said unchangeable identifier information, data is read from the transponder.

48. (new) A method of claim 47 wherein the data read from the transponder and the unchangeable identifier information are stored in at least one read-only memory of the transponder.

49. (new) A method of claim 46 wherein said file is used to check validity of the printed document in a document processing event downstream from production of the document.

50. (new) A method of claim 46 wherein the transponder is already applied on the recording medium before printing of said data on said medium.